Subsidy to MSCCGMFL

2598. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal for subsidy to Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Limited for maintaining MSP of cotton during the season 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the subsidy will be given to Government of Maharashtra for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRIUCLTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The Government of Maharashtra has sought subsidy for making good the loss in cotton procurement under the monopoly procurement scheme of the Government of Maharashtra and export subsidy to make cotton export competititve on the lines application to Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).

Government of India decided to allow Maharashtra State Cooperative Growers' Marketing Federation (MSCCGM) to export cotton within the twenty lakh bales ceiling on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to CCI.

Criteria for sanctioning KVKs

2599. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for sanctioning Krishi Vigyan Kendras; and

(b) the names of the districts where KVKs are proposed to be set up in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRIUCLTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The Government has approved for establishment of one Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in each of the 578 rural districts (as per India 2002) of the country during X Plan. A Site Selection Team examines the logistics for establishment of a KVK based on the proposals received from a district.

(b) The list of 578 rural districts include 17 in West Bengal. The names of the districts are Bankura, Bardhaman, Birbhum, Coochbehar, Darjeeling, Dakshin, Dinajpur, Hooghly, Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Medinipur, Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24 Paraganas, Purulia, South 24 Parganas, and Uttar Dinajpur.

Substandard seeds, manure and pesticides

2600. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that substandard seeds, manure and pesticides are reponsible for low agricultural production;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study to assess this issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of existing mechanisms to regulate quality of seeds, manure and pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The use of quality inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are the most important determinants of agricultural production and productivity. Accordingly, cultivars, pesticides and fertilizers are assessed before release/notification/registration. Government have provided legal framework of strengthen the quality assurance regime for various agriucltural inputs under the Seeds Act, 1966, Seeds Rules, 1968, Seeds (Control) order, 1983, Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, Insecticides Act, 1968 & Insecticides Rules, 1971 as amended from time to time. Enforcement of these legal instruments is vested with the State Governments/Union Territories. Inspectors notified under these legal instruments are empowered to draw samples, seize stocks, issue stop sale orders in case the commodities under reference contravene these Act, Rules and Orders.

Research projects by ICAR for Andhra Pradesh

2601. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of research projects in agriucltural funded by the Indian